

# **Wilmington Golf Course Advisory Board**

**November 14, 2023**

Attendance: Jeff Darby, David Donovan, Tony Upchurch, Steve Bridges, Mike Emma, Richard King (via phone), Louise McColl, Amy Beatty, Joe Anthony, Chris Dean, Craig Davis, Charles Woodall,

5:00pm - Call the Meeting to Order

The following members were appointed/reappointed to the Advisory Board. Joe Anthony, Craig Davis, Tony Upchurch, Charles Woodall, Chris Dean and Steve Bridges until 2025

Motion to approve minutes: Jeff and Louise voted to approve

**Renovations Committee:** Furniture is due December 19<sup>th</sup>. Louise is asking for help to unload and assemble furniture from the MGA and FOM. The existing furniture needs to be moved before the new furniture arrives.

**Budget Committee:** First City Counsel workshop for FY24 budget is November 18<sup>th</sup>. Steve would like for the Advisory Board to have input on the FY24 Budget. There is a tentative proposal to make smaller rate increases every 2 years. Decision was made to move the indirect fees into a special revenue account that would allow the golf course to focus on projects that are recommended by the board. The Board needs to come up with a strategy to pay for the irrigation project. At a staff level we need to get started on a purchasing process for the drainage fees. Steve wanted to know if there were any discussions to increase cart fees. Per Amy, we need to balance being a profit center vs. a recreational amenity. Steve recommended we have a discussion to consider increasing cart fees. Some board members feel our cart fees are cheap compared to other surrounding golf courses. Per David, 30% of our rounds are 9-holes rounds, 30% of the rounds are punch card rounds, 40% (24,000 rounds) are rack rate rounds. There have been no formal talks with finance or City Counsel to inquire on a loan. Steve ask everyone to consider costs of current prices to determine if we need to recommend any increases. Richard wanted to know if there had been any preliminary talks with counsel or finance regarding the loan option. Per Amy, there have been no formal talks however there have been informal discussions with the deputy city manager, finance, and budget directors regarding the loan. Steve asks the board to think about any rates that need to be increased and be prepared to discuss your recommendations at the December Board Meeting.

**Greens and Ground Committee** – on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee there are weeds and trees growing in the mule grass. On 10 and 3 tee box the mule grass needs to be cleaned and new pine straw laid down. On hole 12 there's an area around the bridge that is washed out. Charles recommended filling in that area. The waste area around number 1 on the left side needs to be dressed up. The putting green flags need a little TLC. The new mulch looks great. Charles recommended top addressing that area twice a year with 1-2" of mulch. The capstones on number 12 bridge have been knocked down in the creek. The area behind 18 green needs some TLC from the vendor. The City is working on their contract language to help ensure contracts are being executed as stated. Tony recommended we reconsider using the community service program through the court system to help address the esthetic tasks that need to be completed. Tony feels with the right structure and communications this can be a successful initiative. Amy will check with

the City Manager's office and legal to see if there's been an official position taking on this subject. Amy said she would get back with the Board on next steps.